



HORWICH URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR YEAR 1951.



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HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Councillor Dr. J. O. Bennett.

Members—Councillors E. Blackburn, J. Carr, C.C., Mrs. M. J. Downes, J. Fairclough, P. Fairclough, W. E. W. Flockton, J.P., J. Hargreaves, L. Rimmer, A. Sharples, W. Tomkinson, J.P., W. L. Whitehead, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

§ T. Patton Sewell, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary and Meat Inspector up to 31st October:
C. Coop, M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary and Meat Inspector from 1st November:
K. Ratcliffe, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary and Meat Inspector up to 1st November:
K. Ratcliffe, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk:

Miss P. Turner.

§ Also Divisional Medical Officer;
Divisional Health Committee No. 11,
Lancashire County Council:

Divisional School Medical Officer;
Lancashire County Council:

Medical Officer of Health;

Borough of Leigh:

Urban District of Atherton.

Urban District of Tyldesley.

Urban District of Westhoughton.

Public Health Department,
Public Hall,
Horwich.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Horwich Urban District Council.

Mrs. Downes and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Horwich for the year 1951, together with relevant statistical information.

Statistics.

The population of the district, according to the 1951 census is 15,552.

There was a total of 218 births during the year, being an increase of six on the previous year. Three of the babies were still-born, as against seven in 1950 and eight in 1949. Thus the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for the year under review is 13.9, an increase of 0.7 on the previous year, while the Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population is 14, a decrease of 19 on that for the previous year.

Five of the 218 infants born alive during the year failed to survive their first year so that the Infantile Death Rate for the year is 23. Once again I am pleased to report that no mother died in childbirth. The number of deaths from Cancer, at 29, is six less than in 1950, reducing the rate per 1,000 from 2.2 to 1.8. During the year there was only one death from Tuberculosis, bringing the rate down to the record low figure of 0.06. The Crude Death Rate from all causes is 14.0, an increase on the previous year and on the average for the preceeding five years.

Health Services.

The Lancashire County Council, through it's Divisional Health Administration Scheme 1947, has continued to provide the health services in the district, details of which are given in Section B of this report.

Sanitary Circumstances.

As previously the sanitary circumstances in the district have been kept under close review during the year, special attention being paid to water supplies, housing, other premises, sanitary provision and refuse disposal. Details will be found in the relevant sections of this report.

Food.

Similarly the inspection of foodstuffs and food premises has been active and has covered a wide range of foods and premises.

Housing.

The position remains unsatisfactory as in previous years. Demolition of old and insanitary property will, however, be extended as and when circumstances permit.

Infectious Disease.

There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease but measles has been very prevalent.

I would like to take this opportunity of placing on record my grateful thanks to you, to the Chief Officials and to the staffs of the Public Health and other departments for the interest, help and co-operation given during the year.

Yours sincerely,

T. PATTON SEWELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	3,254.
Population - Census 1951	15,552.
Population - 1951*	15,450.

(*Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate - 1951)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951),
according to Rate Books, 4917.

Rateable Value £81,189.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £317.

Social Conditions.—No material change.

Vital Statistics.—

(Rates calculated on a population basis of 15,450).

BIRTHS	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	111	100	211
Illegitimate	3	1	4
	—	—	—
Total	114	101	215
	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000)			13.9

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
	—	—	—
Total	2	1	3
	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) 14.

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
All causes	118	98	216
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000)			14.0
Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000)			13.6
Maternal Deaths			
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis			nil.
Other Maternal causes			nil.
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 live and still Births)			nil.
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)			
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4	1	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 live births)			23
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			29
Rate per 1,000			1.8
Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Tuberculosis			1
Rate per 1,000			0.06

The following is a statment showing comparative statistics in respect of years 1946-1951

Year	Infantile Mortality												
	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Total			Neo-natal	
									No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of Deaths registered
1951	215	*13.9	216	*14.0	3	14	nil	nil	5	23	3	14	
1950	205	13.2	203	13.1	7	33	nil	nil	4	20	1	5	
1949	236	15.3	218	14.1	8	32	1	4.10	10	42			
1948	223	14.5	178	11.5	10	42	nil	nil	4	17			
1947	295	19.1	183	11.8	10	32	nil	nil	12	40			
1946	267	17.4	198	12.9	6	21	nil	nil	8	29			
Ave. 5 yrs 1946-50		15.9		12.7		32		0.79		31			

* Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 1.01) = 14 per 1000
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.97) = 13.6 per 1000

The following table gives the number of deaths from the various diseases during the year 1951:

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	118	98
<hr/>		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	2
Influenza	0	5
Measles	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis... ..	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	0	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	3
Cancer of Breast	0	4
Cancer of all other sites... ..	14	4
Diabetes	2	0
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	11	11
Heart Diseases	40	44
Other diseases of Circulatory System	2	3
Bronchitis	18	5
Pneumonia	3	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	0	0
Nephritis	4	1
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	0
Premature Birth	0	0
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	2	0
Suicide	1	0
Road Traffic accidents	1	0
Other accidents	0	3
All other causes	13	10

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County
Births :	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Live Births	15·5	17·3	16·7	17·8
Still „	0·36	0·45	0·38	0·37
Deaths :				
All Causes	12·5	13·4	12·5	13·1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Whooping Cough	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Diphtheria	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis	0·31	0·37	0·31	0·38
Influenza	0·38	0·36	0·38	0·23
Smallpox	00·0	00·0	00·0	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0·00	0·01	0·01	0·00
Pneumonia	0·61	0·65	0·63	0·61
Notifications (Corrected) :				
Typhoid fever... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·01
Paratyphoid fever	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·01
Meningococcal Infection ...	0·03	0·04	0·03	0·03
Scarlet fever	1·11	1·20	1·20	1·10
Whooping Cough	3·87	3·62	4·00	3·11
Diphtheria	0·02	0·02	0·03	0·01
Erysipelas	0·14	0·15	0·12	0·15
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Measles... ..	14·07	13·93	14·82	14·64
Pneumonia	0·99	1·04	0·96	0·72
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis) Paralytic...	0·03	0·03	0·03	0·02
Non-Paralytic... ..	0·02	0·02	0·03	0·02
Food Poisoning	0·13	0·15	0·08	0·23
Deaths :	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	29·6 (a)	33·9	27·6	26·4
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1·4	1·6	1·0	0·7
Notifications (Corrected) :	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births			
Puerperal fever and pyrexia...	10·66	13·77	8·08	14·90

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	Rates per million women aged 15—44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, child- birth and the puerperium	70	0·10	
A116 { Abortion with toxæmia	3	0·00	0
Other toxæmia of preg- nancy & the puerperium	167	0·24	
A117 Haemorrhage of preg- nancy and childbirth	91	0·13	
A118 Abortion without men- tion of sepsis or toxæmia	37	0·05	4
A119 Abortion with Sepsis ...	66	0·09	7
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	125	0·18	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service.

Horwich Ambulance Station - Tel.: Horwich 673.
(Lancs. C.C.).

Care of Children - Children Act 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.

Clinics.

1. Ante-natal.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday a.m. (Lancs. C.C.).
2. Artificial Sunlight.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday and Friday a.m. (Lancs. C.C.).
3. Diphtheria Immunisation.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
By appointment. (Lancs. C.C.).
4. Maternity and Child Welfare.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Wednesday and Thursday p.m. (Lancs. C.C.).
5. Ophthalmic.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday a.m. (Lancs. C.C.).
6. Orthopædic.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
1st Wednesday each month. (Lancs. C.C.).
7. Orthoptic.
Orthoptic Clinic, 5, Market Place, Leigh.
By appointment (Lancs. C.C.).
8. Post-natal.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday a.m. (Lancs. C.C.).
9. School Health and Minor Ailment.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday a.m. and p.m. and Thursday a.m.
(Lancs. C.C.).
10. Speech Therapy.
No local facilities.

11. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic.

- (i) 34, St. Thomas' Road, Chorley.
- (ii) 19/23, Darley Street, Farnworth.
- (iii) Civic Centre, Bolton.

(Hospital Board).

12. Venereal Diseases.

- (i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males and Females - Monday, Wednesday and
Friday 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
2-0 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

- (ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males - Wednesday 2-0 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.
Females - Wednesday 2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.
4-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.

(Hospital Board).

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital
Board.

Health Visiting Service.

Two Health Visitors/School Nurses employed in the dis-
trict by Lancs. C.C.

Home Help Service.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

Two District Nurses employed in the district by Lancs.
C.C.

Hospitals.

Bolton Royal Infirmary; Townleys Hospital, Farnworth;
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; Fall Birch
Isolation Hospital, Horwich; and other hospitals situated
in the region of the Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton and Wigan
Infirmaries.

Maternity Homes.

“Haslam,” “Havercroft,” and “Heaton Grange” Maternity Homes, Bolton.

Midwifery Service.

Two full-time domiciliary midwives provided by the Lancs. C.C. practice in the district.

Nursing Homes.

Newlands Nursing Home, Bolton. (Hospital Board).

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire County Council.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by Lancs. C.C.
Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.
Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange and
Townleys Hospital Annexe. No hostels.

X-ray Facilities.

Available at Bolton Royal Infirmary and the Wigan Infirmary. Special facilities for chest X-ray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The sources are moorland, pumping station, disused mine water, lodge water and springs. Filtration and chlorination schemes are in operation. The Council have acquired the right to take water from Park Lodge and the Bacteriological analysis of the water has proved to be satisfactory.

There are approximately 4875 houses with a population of 15,400 supplied direct from public water mains. Approximately 29 houses on the hillside with a population of 72 rely on a well or spring.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No important extensions made during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—There are 5004 Fresh Water Closets, 863 Waste Water Closets, and 54 Pail Closets now existing in the district. During the year 15 waste water closets and 19 trough closets have been converted to fresh water closets.

Public Cleansing.—During the year, 2,340 pails, and 220,320 dustbins have been emptied by the Council's workmen, making approximately 4,427 tons of refuse removed.

Dry refuse is collected from dustbins into dustless low loading refuse removal motor vehicles. Pail closets after emptying are cleansed and purified with a disinfectant.

During the early part of the year the Council studied the question of provision of dustbins and concluded that the most satisfactory method was for the authority to provide dustbins as a charge on the general rate.

On the 1st April, 1951 the Municipal dustbin scheme came into operation and has worked exceptionally well; by this method the controversy between parties as to who should provide the dustbin has been overcome and what was becoming a serious nuisance has been remedied.

All refuse is conveyed to Red Moss Tip and disposed of by means of Controlled Tipping.

Salvage.—A scheme is in operation for the salvaging of clean waste paper and kitchen waste. The amount of salvaged material sold during the year totalled 126 tons.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.—The following is a classified statement of the number of inspections and re-inspections made during 1951:

Houses and other premises	2180
Dairies, Milkshops and Ice-Cream premises	167
Smoke	10
Refuse Collection, Salvage, etc.	335
Factories with mechanical power	11
Factories without mechanical power	65
Infectious Diseases	45
Market	49
Food and Food Premises	165
Water	5
Shops	205
Schools	21
Miscellaneous	180

During the year 1338 defects or nuisances were discovered.

The number of defects or nuisances abated was 1710 of which 418 were brought forward from the previous year.

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied:

Damp walls remedied	156
House roofs repaired	120
Repairs to windows	101
Defective spouting and rain water pipes repaired	150
New water closets provided and water closets repaired	58
New dust bins provided	475
Houses cleansed	7
House Walls re-plastered	177
House doors and floors repaired	37
Repairs to drains	297
Yards repaired	3
General repairs and nuisances	129

Factories Act, 1937.—In accordance with the provisions of Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, the Medical Officer of Health is required to report specifically on the administration of matters under Parts 1 and 8 of this Act, which are administered by the District Council.

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	65	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	9	11	—	—
Total ...	101	87	—	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	4	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	2	1	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..					
Total ...	6	5	—	3	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.—There are two outworkers in the district. These have been visited and the premises found satisfactory.

Shops and Offices.—No change.

Camping Sites.—No sites have been used for camping, either civil or military, during the year and no Licence under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 issued.

Smoke Abatement.—Chimneys have been observed and stokers and management have been interviewed when any excessive black smoke has been seen. All have proved co-operative.

Offensive Trades.—No offensive trade is carried on in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.—None registered.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—None Registered.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—During the year two privately owned houses were found to be bug infested. The houses were disinfested with a D.D.T. emulsion and further reinspected after treatment. Before tenants are removed to Council houses their belongings are inspected and general cleanliness insisted upon.

Schools.—There are eleven schools in the district as separate buildings. The general standard of sanitation is fairly satisfactory particularly since during the year the trough closets at two schools have been replaced by water closets. This now leaves only one school having trough closets, and it is hoped that these will be converted in the very near future.

Where school meals are served the facilities for their handling could be greatly improved by more adequate kitchen accommodation and the provision of running hot water which is lacking in some instances.

Rag, Flock, and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.—No premises have been registered under the Act.

Other Sanitary Conditions.—Towards the end of the year a special sub-committee was formed to deal with the conversion of the town's 850 waste water closets. A scheme was evolved whereby

a number of these closets should be converted by compulsion and a further number should be carried out voluntarily assisted by a grant to owners. By this method it is hoped to rid the town of this type of sanitary convenience within about eight years.

Rodent Control.—During the year the Rodent Operator has investigated all complaints received and in many instances these visits have been followed by visits by the Sanitary Inspector. In addition to investigation of complaints treatments have been carried out at the Red Moss Tip and other premises under the local authority's control.

Farms and other agricultural premises have been visited in order to discover any infestation and sewers have received attention by first test baiting followed by two six monthly treatments.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The town's only pasteurising plant has received regular attention and during the year it was converted from the holder to the H.T.S.T. type. Since the conversion the working of the plant has greatly improved.

There are five dealers licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested," six to sell "Pasteurised" and twenty to sell "Sterilised" milk in the district. The remainder of the milk distributors operate from dairy farms which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is of interest to note the trend towards the consumption of heat treated milk; the number of persons licensed to sell pasteurised milk having doubled since last year.

Samples have been taken from persons distributing milk with the following results:—

(a) Raw Milk

- (i) Tuberculosis-biological tests - 24 samples, all negative.
- (ii) Biochemical examinations - 18 samples of which 17 proved satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(b) "Heat treated" milk.

- (i) Phosphatase test - 3 samples proved satisfactory.
- (ii) Methylene blue reduction test - 3 samples proved satisfactory.
- (iii) Turbidity test - 2 samples proved satisfactory.

Ice Cream.—There are 4 premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 25 premises registered for the sale of ice cream under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1939.

These premises are regularly inspected and are kept in a very satisfactory condition. Out of 27 samples submitted for the Methylene Blue Test two failed to pass the standard but on further sampling these also proved satisfactory. Samples were also tested for fat content and a very good average was maintained.

Food Premises.—These premises, including restaurant and hotel kitchens where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale have been inspected and a general satisfactory condition has been maintained. The clean food campaign has been carried on by stressing the importance of a high standard of hygiene amongst food handlers during visits to food premises. The model byelaws for the handling and wrapping of food and the sale of food in the open air are in operation in this district. There are approximately 350 shops in the town and of these a very high proportion deal in food of some description.

Food Poisoning.—No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

Food Condemned.—The following meat and other foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption. The largest item, tinned meat, pork and ham, was made up mainly of tinned hams. These were almost all of Continental origin, the average weight of each being in the region of 14 lbs. When opened the contents had commenced to putrefy although the tins did not appear to be “blown.” The majority of such tins were labelled to the effect that they should be kept under refrigeration or at least in a cool place and these instructions could hardly be adhered to during transit or during storage in the smaller shops. The shopkeepers and canteen staffs are to be commended for their vigilance in rejecting many of these affected hams and so probably averting cases of food poisoning.

Cheese	23 lbs.
Dried Fruit	30 lbs.
Pickles	5 lbs.
Tinned Beans	22 lbs.
Tinned Fish	17 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	285 lbs.
Tinned and bottled jam and marmalade	114 lbs.
Tinned meat, pork and ham	505 lbs.
Tinned Milk	157 lbs.
Tinned Peas	62 lbs.
Tinned Pudding	2 lbs.
Tinned Tomatoes and Tomato Juice	17 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	7 lbs.

Shell Fish.—There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

Markets.—There is a covered Market which is open each Friday.

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

Statistics.—Number of houses and flats erected during the year:-

(i) by the Council	80
(ii) by other bodies	7
Number of dwelling houses inspected	328
Number of inspections made	1816
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	284
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken (includes those rendered fit after notice last year) ...	288
Statutory Action taken under the Housing Act 1936	0
Statutory Action taken under the Public Health Acts in which formal notice to remedy the defects was served	13
Number of houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal notice (includes 4 from 1950)	12

Conditions.—There has been no material change in the conditions as outlined in last year's report.

A number of families and newly married couples continue to live in rooms or with relatives, and judging from the information given by applicants for a Council house the number continues to increase. Of 1054 such applicants 299 are living in rooms as against 235 out of a total of 854 applicants the previous year.

To meet this growing demand the Council has built 80 houses during the year, as against 74 built and tenanted in 1950. Included in this figure are 12 houses built to be let to key workers at a local aircraft factory.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Chicken Pox.—This infectious disease has remained notifiable in the district, 43 cases being notified during the year under review, as against 59 the previous year. The number is considerably less than in the year 1948 when 125 cases were reported.

Diphtheria.—The number of cases of, and deaths from diphtheria throughout England and Wales have shown a remarkable reduction during the past 50 years, and particularly during the last 10 years, the period during which immunisation on a large scale has been practiced. From being one of the most serious causes of death and illness of children in this country diphtheria has now been reduced to a position of numerical insignificance. In the year 1901 almost 10,000 persons died from the disease. In 1951 only 32 died from the same cause. Each year sees an increasing number of localities reporting no cases or deaths. In the year 1946, of the 83 County Boroughs in England and Wales, no deaths occurred in 28 of them. In the year 1950 no deaths occurred in 70 of these areas and in 33 areas there were no cases even.

The Urban District of Horwich has fully enjoyed the remarkable improvement which has taken place for it is a few years now since a case occurred in the District.

Even so the need to continue diphtheria immunisation remains. If continued it is possible that the disease may be eradicated. If discontinued the disease may remain endemic indefinitely with the ever present risk of a return to epidemics and a high mortality.

Dysentery.—One case was notified.

Acute Infectious Encephalitis.—No case reported.

Erysipelas.—Five cases were notified. All were successfully treated at home.

Food Poisoning.—Food poisoning is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act. No case was reported.

Malaria.—No case notified.

Measles.—This notifiable infectious disease tends to appear in epidemic form every two years. The year under review has been such a year in so far as Horwich is concerned for 258 cases were notified as against 67 last year and 197 the previous year. All cases fortunately were comparatively mild and none were admitted to hospital.

Menningococcal Infection.—No case notified.

Paratyphoid Fever.—No case reported.

Pneumonia.—The number of cases increased from 17 the previous year to 30 this year of which 12 proved fatal.

Polioencephalitis.—No cases notified.

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).—No case reported.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No case reported.

Scarlet Fever.—30 cases were notified as against 30 last year. As previously the disease was mild in character, no deaths occurred and only 17 were admitted to hospital.

Smallpox.—No cases or contacts reported.

Tuberculosis.—There were 3 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one new case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified. One death occurred.

Whooping Cough.—11 cases were notified.

A decision as to the advisability of introducing mass immunisation against this disease was not reached during the year but I do not think it can be far distant.

Cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1951.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases Notified											Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods—Years								65 and over	Age un-known		
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—				
Smallpox	30	—	1	9	18	2	—	—	—	—	17	—	
Scarlet Fever.....													
Diphtheria.....													
Typhoid Fever.....													
Paratyphoid Fever.....													
Measles, except German Measles.....	258	4	61	103	90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough.....	11	1	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Pneumonia.....	30	2	2	3	6	—	2	1	9	5	4	12	
Puerperal Pyrexia.....													
Cerebro Spinal Fever													
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Polio-encephalitis.....													
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.....													
Dysentery	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	
Malaria:—													
Contracted in England and Wales ...													
Abroad													
Food Poisoning													
Chicken-pox	43	3	4	8	24	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Totals...	378	10	72	128	140	5	2	2	12	7	21	12	

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1951.

Notifications : .

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Sex.	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and upw's.	Total
Males										1		1
Females						1						1

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males												nil.
Females				1								1

Deaths from Tuberculosis :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males										1		1
Females												nil.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males												nil.
Females												nil.

All fatal cases of tuberculosis were notified.

